

Message Text

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12

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DRC-01 IO-14 /130 W

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R 282038Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 760

INFO AMEMBASY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PE, CI

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GENERAL LEIGH

REF: SANTIAGO 3773

1. HEAD OF CHILEAN AIR FORCE AND MEMBER OF RULING JUNTA, GENERAL GUSTAVO LEIGH, COMPLETED 6-DAY VISIT JUNE 26. AT START OF VISIT HE ANNOUNCED THAT GENERAL PINOCHET, HEAD OF GOC RULING JUNTA, WOULD ATTEND DECEMBER CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS CALLED FOR BY PRESIDENT VELASCO AS PART OF CELEBRATIONS OF ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF AYACUCHO. LATER, DURING AUDIENCE WITH VELASCO, LEIGH PRESENTED HIM WITH OFFICIAL LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FROM PINOCHET. REST OF VISIT MOSTLY TOURISTIC AND CEREMONIAL; SENSITIVE PERUVIAN MILITARY INSTALLATIONS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN STUDIOUSLY AVOIDED.

2. COMMENT: REPORTING BY LIMA PRESS, ALTHOUGH LOW-KEY AT FIRST, WAS FAIRLY EXTENSIVE. ONE AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT WAS SURPRISED THAT LEIGH WAS TREATED SO FAVORABLY BY THE GOP BECAUSE THE CHILEAN GENERAL HAS REPORTEDLY BEEN ONE OF THE MOST OUTSPOKEN CRITICS OF GOP. A CONSERVATIVE PERUVIAN COMMENTED TO EMBASSY THAT CUBA MUST BE ANGRY TO SEE LEIGH RECEIVED SO WARMLY. THE SAME PERUVIAN FELT THAT AIR FORCE GENERAL GILARDI'S CORDIAL

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RECEPTION OF LEIGH REPRESENTED A CONSCIOUS EFFORT ON GILARDI'S

PART TO PLACATE THE GENERALLY MODERATE PERUVIAN AIR FORCE,
BELIEVED TO BE SOMEWHAT DISTURBED BY PERU'S RADICAL COURSE AND
GILARDI'S RECENT SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT VELASCO IN HIS MAY 29-30
QUARREL WITH RECENTLY OUSTED AND CONSERVATIVE NAVY MINISTER VARGAS.
ABOVE ALL, LEIGH'S WELCOME APPEARS TO REPRESENT A CONSCIENTIOUS
EFFORT BY MILGOV TO DEMONSTRATE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CHILE.

3. REGARDLESS OF LEIGH'S EXCELLENT TREATMENT, CHILEAN ATTACHES
TOLD DAO THAT PERU'S MOTIVES ARE SUSPECT, THAT PERU IS SIMPLY
TRYING TO LULL CHILE INTO FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

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